UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/202
6 March 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 5 MARCH 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ZIMBABWE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter to you from Dr. I. S. G. Mudenge, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Zimbabwe and Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Committee on the dispute between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the one hand and the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the other.

Please note that the burden of the letter is to bring to your attention and that of the Security Council the concern of OAU at the continuing dispute between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the one hand and the United States and the United Kingdom on the other, over the Lockerbie issue.

I would like to highlight the Minister's request that the letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. M. T. MAPURANGA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-05649 (E) 060398

/...

Annex

Letter dated 5 March 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Zimbabwe and Chairman of the Organization of African Unity Committee on the Dispute between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am addressing this letter to you in order to bring to your attention the concern of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) at the continuing dispute between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland over the Lockerbie issue.

As you are aware, OAU, together with the League of Arab States and other organizations, has been deploying efforts aimed at promoting a lasting and peaceful solution to the crisis. In that regard, OAU has been consistently calling for the lifting of the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the Security Council. It has also called on the Security Council to consider the three options submitted to it jointly by the OAU and the League of Arab States, namely:

(a) Option 1. Hold the trial of the suspects in a third and neutral country to be determined by the Security Council;

(b) Option 2. Have the suspects tried by Scottish judges at the International Court of Justice at The Hague, in accordance with Scottish law;

(c) Option 3. Establish a special criminal tribunal at ICJ headquarters at The Hague to try the suspects.

The dispute between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United States and the United Kingdom was again discussed at the sixty-seventh ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of OAU, held at Addis Ababa from 25 to 28 February 1998. The Council of Ministers reiterated its position on the matter and strongly supported the call by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the convening of an open session of the Security Council under Article 31 of the Charter of the United Nations that would take place in March 1998. The Council of Ministers further requested me to write and convey to you the concerns of our organization and its keen interest in an early and peaceful solution to the crisis.

I should be grateful if you could kindly have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) I. S. G. MUDENGE
Foreign Minister of the Republic of Zimbabwe and
Chairman of the OAU Committee on the Dispute
between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and United
States of America and the United Kingdom